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# Absentee



# Voting

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Many registered voters in Illinois are unable to vote in person at the

polling place on election day. This pamphlet provides general information regarding the correct procedures to follow in order to vote by absentee ballot.

## **Who May Vote By Absentee Ballot?**

Registered voters expecting to be absent from the county of residence on election day;

Registered voters appointed to be judges of election in a precinct different from where they reside;

Registered voters unable to be present at the polls because of a physical incapacity;

Registered voters observing a religious holiday and unable to be present at the polls because of the tenets of their religion;

Registered voters who because of election duties in the office of a state's attorney, county clerk, a board of election commissioners or State Board of Elections will be unable to be present at the polls;

Registered or non-registered members of the United States Armed Forces while on active duty, and members of the Merchant Marines, as well as their spouses and dependents who expect to be absent from their county of residence on election day;

Registered or non-registered members of religious groups, welfare agencies as well as their spouses and dependents who are officially attached to or assisting members of the Armed Forces who expect to be absent from the county in which they reside on election day;

State and Federal employees who had a voting residence in the precinct at the time they entered employment, but who now reside elsewhere due to State or Federal employment;

A registered citizen temporarily residing overseas may vote by absentee ballot;

Any citizen residing outside of the country, not registered to vote but qualified to vote in a federal election, may vote by absentee ballot for federal offices.

## **ABSENTEE VOTING PROCEDURES**

### **When can applications for absentee ballots be made? (Be certain to apply within the following time frames.)**

**By Mail** — Not more than 40 days nor less than 5 days prior to the election.

**In Person** — Not more than 40 days nor less than 1 day prior to the election.

#### **note**

Some voters, primarily those who are temporarily out of the country, may make application for an absentee ballot not more than 100 days nor less than 10/30 days prior to the election. Contact your election authority for specific details, if you are (or plan to be) out of the country.

### **STEP 1**

Obtain the proper application for absentee ballot from your election authority (county clerk or board of election commissioners).

### **STEP 2**

Upon receipt, complete the application. Make certain to include your name, home address, the address where you want the ballot to be mailed, and be sure to sign the application. (In primary elections you must state your party affiliation.)

### **STEP 3**

After completing the application, either mail it, deliver it yourself, or have someone deliver it for you. If you return the application in person or complete the application in the election authority's office, you may immediately vote your absentee ballot in the election authority's office. If you mail the application or have someone deliver it, and it is properly completed, the election authority will mail your absentee ballot to you.

### **STEP 4**

After receiving your ballot, **VOTE THE BALLOT IN SECRET**. Insert the ballot into the envelope provided, seal it, complete and sign the certification on the back and **PERSONALLY return it or mail it** to the election authority in sufficient time for it to be delivered to the polling place on election day.

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## Did You Know?

Absentee voters have the same obligations as those who vote in the polling place on election day. They must complete an application and vote their absentee ballot in complete secrecy.

The affidavits on the application and the ballot envelope must be signed. These affidavits attest to the accuracy of the information provided on the application. The affidavit on the envelope attests that the absentee voter is voting **his own ballot in secret**.

The voted absentee ballot must be properly returned to the election authority (county clerk or board of election commissioners). The ballot may be returned **by mail** or it can be returned **in person only by the absentee voter**.

## IMPORTANT

Knowingly giving, lending, or promising to give or lend any money or other valuable consideration to any other person to influence another person to vote for or against any candidate or public question is a **Class 4 felony**.

**Any unusual activity or irregularity associated with absentee voting procedures should be reported immediately to proper authorities.**

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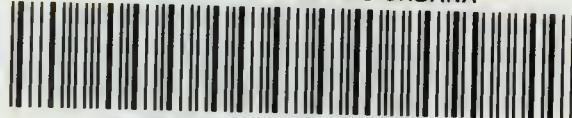
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## THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

A primary goal of the State Board of Elections is to help bring about greater understanding and participation in the electoral process. *Authorities on Illinois elections are available as speakers for civic organizations, school groups and the general public.*

For more information on election laws and procedures, write or call the State Board of Elections.

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3 0112 116632792



1020 South Spring Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704  
217/782-4141

100 West Randolph, Suite 14-100  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
312/917-6440

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